

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 00994 111641Z

44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ARAE-00 EB-07 SCA-01 DLOS-03

CG-00 DOTE-00 SCS-03 COME-00 INT-05 /068 W

----- 110131

O 111636Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4393

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0994

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EFIS PLOS EC US

SUBJECT: TUNA BOAT SEIZURES: CONSULAR ASSISTANCE

REF: A) QUITO 990; B) DEWITT-CLARKE TELECON FEB. 10

C) STATE 29384

1. AS REPORTED IN REF B, FEB. 10 SHOOTING INCIDENT ABOARD OCEAN QUEEN WAS ENTIRELY ACCIDENTAL. ECUADOREAN GUARD APPARENTLY STUMBLED OR SAT WHILE HOLDING HIS LOADED WEAPON WHICH THEN DISCHARGED ROUNDS INTO THE CEILING OF SHIP'S CHART ROOM. WE ARE CONTINUING TO IMPRESS UPON GOE AUTHORITIES NEED FOR MORE FREQUENT ROTATION OF GUARDS AND MORE CAREFUL WEAPON HANDLING.

2. AS A RESULT OF YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT AND GENERALLY GROWING TENSIONS AMONGST CREWS, CONGEN DEWITT HAS NOW STATIONED OFFICERS PERMANENTLY ABOARD THE JACQUELINE A., CITY OF LISBON, THE MARY ELIZABETH AND THE OCEAN QUEEN. ANOTHER OFFICER IS BEING STATIONED ABOARD CALYPSO THIS MORNING, AND TWO ADDITIONAL OFFICERS BEING DISPATCHED BY EMBASSY QUITO MID-DAY FEBRUARY 11 FOR STATIONING ABOARD TWO REMAINING VESSELS. BASIC ROLE BEING PLAYED BY THESE
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OFFICERS IS TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARIES BETWEEN GUARDS AND

CREWS AND USE GOOD OFFICES IN ANY WAY THEY CAN TO ALLEVIATE TENSIONS. OFFICERS OF COURSE ALSO IN POSITION TO WITNESS ANY ACTION TAKEN BY ECUADOREAN AUTHORITIES WITH RESPECT TO THE VESSELS, CREWS OR CONFISCATION OF THE CATCH, AS DEPARTMENT PROMISED FELANDO IN ITS MESSAGE OF FEBRUARY 8 (REF C).

3. CONGEN DEWITT ASSUMES THAT TENSIONS ABOARD VESSELS WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AS LONG AS FINAL DECISION REGARDING DEPARTURE IS UNKNOWN. ONCE THAT DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED, HE EXPECTS MATTERS TO COOL SOMEWHAT.
BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP DETENTION, PHYSICAL SECURITY, OCEAN QUEEN, JACQUELINE A, CITY OF LISBON, MARY ELIZABETH, CALYPSO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750049-0772
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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